

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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SUBJECT	Prison Camps in Rumania	DATE DISTR.	30 March 1953	
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1. In 1949 political prisoners were sent to the following four prisons:
 - a. Gherla: Prisoners of proletarian origin, workers, artisans and peasants.
 - b. Aiud: Members of the free professions, intellectuals, and businessmen.
 - c. Pitesti: Students
 - d. Targusor: Young people without education.
2. In 1949 and 1950 there were more than 1,000 students at Pitesti, including Legionnaires, members of the National Peasant Party (Maniu's Party), and Monarchists. The prison regime was very severe; no exercise of any kind being permitted until March 1950. Neither packages nor visitors could be received. Rations consisted of a quarter of a loaf of bread and two bowls of soup per day. Up to 1949 the students had been well treated because the prison staff was still pre-1944 and opposed to the new regime. However, in 1949 a resistance group was discovered at Pitesti, the entire staff was dismissed, and a strict regime was introduced. A revolt which broke out briefly was immediately suppressed.
3. Among the students was a certain Turcanu, a party member, who was arrested because it was discovered that he had at one time been a legionnaire. Turcanu was used by the prison authorities to lead a re-education group of about 70 men. This group was later used by the authorities as a kind of internal police force. All those who took part in the re-education course had to supply written declarations concerning their political past and to give information concerning their former associates. Mass arrests were later carried out on the basis of these declarations. Prisoners not belonging to this group were subsequently spied upon and beaten.

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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4. In March 1950 about 200 students were sent to the Danube-Black Sea Canal Zone, but they were insolent to the camp administration and were sent back after two weeks. Subsequently 160 selected students were again sent to work in the Canal Zone and allocated to the Peninsula camp near Valea Neagra. The 160 students were first sent to Cernavoda and three weeks later were transferred, with 700 other political prisoners, to a completely new camp on the peninsula. They lived in barracks which were shaped like an H, each barrack containing four rooms with 50 men to a room. There were showers with running water in each barrack. At first the camp authorities treated the prisoners fairly well. The food was good, parcels and visitors were allowed once a week, and the prisoners were guarded only outside the camp. At the beginning of 1951 Militia guards were introduced into all the barracks and an extremely severe regime started.
5. Some of the prisoners were employed at the camp garage at Ovidiu on the maintenance of approximately 60 dump trucks. Prisoners were not used as drivers, who were all paid workers including a number of women.
6. At first most of the prisoners were employed on digging only, being required to dig and transport 3 to $3\frac{1}{2}$ cubic meters of soil per day. Some of the prisoners later worked in the new quarry at Ovidiu on the western side of the bay. Prisoners working with pneumatic drills were required to drill between eight and ten meters per day. The norm for the cutting of cubical stones was 1.5 cubic meters per day, and that for loading stone onto railroad cars was 3 to 4 cubic meters per day. A group of prisoners worked at Kilometer 53 near Mamaia Sat, loading and unloading trucks which transported soil from there. In 1951 work was started on the west coast of the bay with hydraulic dredgers, and several prisoners were employed there. These were the only dredgers in use at the time.
7. Another group of prisoners worked on the construction of a large new brick factory northwest of Mamaia, about 20 to 25 minutes drive from the camp on a dirt road. The factory is situated west of this road, just before the military airfield. The factory building was completed by June 1951 and work on the installation of the machinery is in progress. It has its own railroad siding branching off the main Poarta Alba-Capul Midia line. The sidings are used by the airfield as well as by the construction workers.
8. The airfield, which was built by the Germans in 1942 on an area about $2\frac{1}{2}$ x $2\frac{1}{2}$ kilometers, is situated to the north of the factory. The administrative and living quarters of the personnel and a double hangar for about 20 to 25 aircraft are situated on the side nearest the factory. The airport is administered by the Soviets. No radar, antiaircraft or other installations are visible.

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